

## Scent

*Definition: An odor an animal leaves behind, such as urine or musk.*

Many animals use scent to mark their territories, attract mates, claim kill sites, or defend themselves. Depending on species, animals may use urine, feces, or secretions from scent glands. Most animals place their scent on existing landmarks such as trees or rocks. The beaver, however, builds a special mound and marks it with castoreum (a scent gland secretion). Canines and felines mark territory boundaries with urine. A skunk sprays a foul-smelling liquid in self-defense to distract a predator while it makes a hasty escape.

## Sound

*Definition: A sound an animal makes, either through vocalization or with another part of its body.*

Animals use sound to communicate, to mark territory, to warn others, or to attract a mate. Some examples are birds singing, crickets chirping, or beavers slapping their tails on the water. Although not all of these sounds are vocal, they are distinct and recognizable.

## Plant damage

*Definition: Plants that have been altered by animal behavior.*

Animals cause damage to plants for several different reasons. Animals such as bears or bobcats mark their territories by clawing and biting the bark off of trees. This type of damage is called a scrape. Male deer remove the blood-rich velvet from their growing antlers by rubbing them against a tree, leaving some blood and velvet clinging to the bark-stripped tree. This type of damage is called a rub. Beavers leave stumps and piles of wood chips behind when they fell a tree for food or for use in their lodge or dam. Squirrels shred the bark off trees and use it in their nests. Even something as simple as the way a leaf was nibbled can distinguish whether a deer, a rabbit, or a caterpillar fed in the area.